

POLISH NEWS

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In paying my deepest homage to the memory of the murdered and tortured victims, I wish to assure my country on behalf of the Polish Government that the latter is fully aware of all these crimes and will not omit any one of them from the final reckoning.

GENERAL WLADYSLAW SIKORSKI
Polish Prime-Minister (June 1942).

THE OCTOBER NUMBER OF "POLISH NEWS" IS DEDICATED TO OUR COUNTRYMEN WHO ARE ENDURING THE GREATEST UNIMAGINABLE SUFFERINGS UNDER THE GERMAN TERROR IN POLAND. THEIR FATE MAY SERVE AS A WARNING TO ALL THOSE WHO STILL BELIEVE IN BOASTFUL CLAIMS OF THE GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

GERMAN CRIMES ARRAIGNED

The data quoted below are taken from available documents and are based on the formal declaration of Mr. Mikolajczyk, Polish Minister of Internal Affairs.

During the last months the Gestapo have intensified the terror very severely. Their efforts are directed towards the tracking down and extermination of all signs of Polish patriotic and freedom activities. Throughout the country, and particularly in Poznan and Warsaw, there is a ceaseless wave of political arrests, and hardly anybody arrested is being released; most of those arrested are kept permanently in penal confinement under the Gestapo, in ordinary prisons and in concentration camps; many of them, particularly in Western Poland and Pomerania, are executed by the Gestapo shortly after their arrest.

The Gestapo men in Warsaw and Poznan are specially distinguished by their cruelties.

The torture of persons under examination always aims at the extraction of personal information or concerning secret organizations, so that afterwards the Gestapo terror may the more easily seize upon fresh cases of patriotic activities and fresh people.

The state of things in this sphere is so severe and threatening that all possible means should be taken to bring about an even partial relief and mitigation of the situation.

News has been received of increased terror in Upper Silesia. There are gallows in eighteen Silesian towns. Those arrested are hanged.

In Dombrowa, Szurley, Bendzin and Sosnowiec they are hanged publicly on gallows and trees; the public, even schoolchildren, being driven to look at these crimes.

In the concentration camp at Oswiecim itself the number of prisoners held has risen in the course of three months by 8,000.

The mass arrests concern especially Polish officers of the reserve, Polish peasants who do not deliver the quota of agricultural produce demanded by the Germans, and Polish railwaymen and workers accused of sabotage in their work.

A public execution of 100 Poles—of whom four were women—was carried out at Zgierz, a town near Lodz, on March 20th, in the presence of 7,000 people, for the killing of two Germans by a Pole on March 7th. The bodies were beaten with revolvers while still alive. This took place after the public announcement that 10 Poles had been shot for the killing of one German—and now the rate is 50 for one.

On March 18th in the concentration camp of Dziesiata, near Lublin (where there were formerly 1,150 Soviet prisoners, of whom 950 were shot), 140 Polish political prisoners out of 800 imprisoned there were shot. Among them were a number of peasants imprisoned for delivering an insufficient agricultural quota.

So we have 50 Poles shot at Zgierz, 100 in Warsaw, 105 in Jasnowiec, 400 near Lublin, and 540 near Radom, in each case for one German killed.



The inn-keeper Bartoszek, hanged on the door of his inn during the massacre in Wawer of December 26-27 1939

In Bochnia 18 people deported from Cracow were shot, in Lancut 30 ; near Hrubieszow 20 peasants were shot for sheltering Russian war prisoners. At Rudka Kijanska, near Lubartow, 214 persons were murdered in one village by being shot or having hand grenades thrown into their homes. In Poznan there is an average of 200 executions at the citadel monthly. Sulmierzyce, Kalisz, Lask, Szczepanow and Radomsko are other places where mass murders have occurred. Everywhere throughout the length and breadth of Poland there are scenes of executions, murder and terror.

Still worse is the situation of the Jews. The Warsaw ghetto is already notorious. Hunger, death and sickness are exterminating the Jewish population systematically and continually. In the Lublin district on the night of March 23rd to 24th, the Jewish population were driven out of their homes. The sick and the infirm were killed on the spot. One hundred and eight children of from 2 to 9 years old in a Jewish orphanage were taken outside the town, together with their nurses, and murdered. Altogether that night 2,500 people were massacred, and the remaining 26,000 Jews

of Lublin were removed to the concentration camps at Belzec and Trawniki. Eight thousand people were deported from Izbica Kujawska for an unknown destination. In Belzec and Trawniki murders are also carried out by means of poison gas. There have been mass murders at Rawa Ruska and Bilgoraj, where the Jewish communities have ceased to exist. At Wawolnica, near Kazimierz, on March 22nd, the S.S. shot 120 Jews in the market-place. An unknown number of Jews were led out of the town and slaughtered. On March 30th, Jews were driven from Opol to Naleczow, 350 being killed on the way. The rest were put into goods trucks, which were then sealed, and deported to an unknown destination. At Mielec about 1,300 Jews were slaughtered on March 9th. In Mir 2,000 Jews were slaughtered, in Nowogrodek 2,500, in Wolozyn 1,800, and in Kojdanow 4,000. Thirty thousand Jews from Hamburg were deported to Minsk, and there all were murdered. The Jews slaughtered in Lwow amount to 30,000, in Wilno 60,000, in Stanislawow 15,000, in Tarnopol 5,000, in Zloczow 2,000 and in Brzezany 4,000. Reports have been received of the murder of Jews at Tarnow, Radom,

Zborowa, Kolomyja, Sambor, Stryj, Drohobycz, Zbaraz, Brody, Przemyśl, Kolo, and Domb.

The compulsion to dig one's own grave, mowing down with machine-guns and hand grenades, and even poisoning with gas are everyday methods of annihilating the Jewish population. In Warsaw and in Lwow the Jewish Council itself had to provide a list of victims.

The number of Poles executed, murdered and tortured to death during nearly three years of German occupation already amounts to 200,000 persons. The number of massacred Jews exceeds 700,000.

Therefore when we consider that from the beginning of the war to date about :

900,000 Polish citizens (Poles and Jews) have been killed,

1,500,000 Poles deported to forced labour to Germany,

200,000 are prisoners of war in Germany,

150,000 were killed in the September, 1939, campaign,

170,000 Poles have been compulsorily recruited for the German Army from the incorporated territory, we see that—

2,920,000 Polish citizens are lost to Poland at present, not counting Polish citizens who have found themselves involuntarily in Soviet Russia.

This picture takes on yet more sombre hues when we recall the number of people, amounting to about 1,500,000, removed from Western Poland—the territory incorporated into the Reich—into the General-Gouvernement, and the losses which we are bearing as a result of the fall in the birth rate, the increase in the death rate and the spreading of infectious diseases.

The Germans, in relation to Poland, have applied and are applying the policy of clearing *Lebensraum* for themselves by the systematic extermination of the whole population living in those territories and the annihilation of all traces of Polish life and culture.



A photograph of two elderly Jews forced to dig earth under the supervision of a German soldier. It appeared in the *Illustrierter Beobachter* of November 9th, 1939.

The people in Poland think that the reaction to the unexampled torture inflicted upon them is too weak, as much on the part of their own Government as on the part of the Pope and the Allies. They demand that an equivalent code should be applied to the Germans in the United States ; at least some tens of thousands of them should be imprisoned in concentration camps and regarded as hostages. The mere threat of a tribunal in the future and the inexorable application of reprisals does not help at all.

In connection with the above state of affairs, the following appeal was addressed by the responsible leaders of the Polish underground movement to the Polish Prime Minister, General Sikorski :

"For over 2½ years the Germans have been carrying out a systematic plan, prepared for years beforehand, for exterminating the Polish nation as a natural barrier to their centuries-old *Drang nach Osten*.

"The fury of this action has reached such dimensions during the past few weeks that its further con-

tinuance threatens the Polish intellectual classes with complete annihilation, and the whole nation with such a loss in strength that after the war we may not be able to deal with the great tasks which will await us.

"From various parts of Poland alarming news is coming in confirming that the *furor teutonicus*, having reached a murderous paroxysm, is sowing mass murder and fire among the innocent Polish people.

For example :

"1. For delay in delivering the agricultural quota, which very often exceeds all possibility of fulfilment, there are tortures, dispossession, labour camps, concentration camps, which as a rule mean death sentences, and recently, as was proved in the Lublin districts, even destruction or burning down of the whole farm together with the farmer's family, who are locked up for the purpose in the farm buildings, those trying to save themselves by running away being shot on the spot.

"2. For an attack on a German, for giving shelter or help to escaping Russian prisoners or partisans, for the damaging of communications by saboteurs, hundreds of innocent Polish people living in the neighbourhood perish immediately.

"3. On the discovery of a secret publication or any kind of appearance of partaking in freedom activities there are tortures and death sentences, or long terms in concentration camps, the equivalent of death sentences, with prolonged tortures.

"4. On discovery of trading in articles of daily use : labour camp, concentration camp or death sentence.

"5. For any kind of patriotic gesture or of criticism towards the occupants : concentration camp. As basis for the authentication of these crimes, all denunciations resulting from personal prejudices are regularly admitted as evidence.

"The wave of terror and murder includes the whole of Poland, although only fragments of news of the German barbarism get through to the civilised world.

"It has gone so far that there is no Polish family to-day which is not weeping for some dear one murdered or tortured in a concentration camp.

"In this state of things, the protection of human life in Poland assumes a fundamental meaning for her future."

JUTICE WILL BE DONE

A DECLARATION MADE BY MR. BRENDAN BRACKEN,
MINISTER OF INFORMATION ON A PRESS CONFERENCE

HELD AT THE BRITISH MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
ON JULY 9TH, 1942

We are about to hear a tale as ghastly as any ever known to history. 700,000 Jews alone have been murdered in Poland. The treatment of every other religion, including the Catholic religion, has been marked by a bestiality unknown in any previous records of history. The Germans have excelled themselves as the most brutal nation which has ever defaced the annals of the human race. What gives me some small satisfaction is that I, as a member of the Government, can reassure our Polish Friends here that the people responsible for these murders and outrages in Poland will be brought to justice. They will be treated as common murderers, which they are, and those gangsters will be punished with the utmost rigidity of the law, the utmost strictness of the law, and that is a matter of very great importance. I can assure you that the Government of Great Britain and all the Governments of the United Nations are in complete agreement on this question, that every care should be taken to secure the names of the persons responsible for these crimes ; that they should be brought speedily to justice at the conclusion of the war, and that their punishment will fit their crimes ; and, believe me, in view of the crimes committed by the Germans, the punishment will be in many cases the most severe known to any law, and I hope that that fact will be rubbed steadily into the minds of the beasts responsible for the terrible happenings in Poland.

IN SOLEMN PROTEST, GENERAL SIKORSKI CALLS
ON WORLD TO PUNISH UNHEARD OF CRIMES

"Mass shootings, and the torture of tens of thousands in concentration camps, the confiscation of property and of all means of production, the expulsion from business and the deportation of more than one and a half million people, the systematic starvation of the Polish Nation and the banning of all assistance to the sick and feeble, the methodical and continuous destruction of Polish culture, the ruthless extermination of everything Polish in lands inhabited by Poles for a thousand years,—all this continues without respite.

"For some time we did not bring this appalling state of affairs to the notice of the world but confined ourselves to noting the crimes and their perpetrators, so that the hour of victory should also be the hour of stern retribution. However, when under the influence of insane fear, the terror wave has assumed such vast proportions in Poland as in the spring of this year, after Himmler's visit to our country, the Polish Government has again decided to call the attention of all the Allied Na-

tions to these unheard of crimes, that nothing in history can equal.

"This new wave of terror began in March with mass arrests in Warsaw, Cracow, Lublin and other Polish towns, and mass deportation. Prisoners thus seized, including a large number of women, were sent to concentration camps notorious for cruelty. The professors of Lwow University, imprisoned after the Germans entered the city, were deported to some unknown destination and all trace of them is lost. The same thing happened in Wilno, where Archbishop Jalbrzykowski, a great patriot, beloved of his flock, was arrested with all the Cathedral chapter and the professors and students of the local seminary.

"In Poznan, prisoners including a number of prominent citizens, were tortured to death, and many other victims already sentenced, await execution. To smash the resistance of the railwaymen in Upper-Silesian junctions, gallows have been erected in eighteen Silesian towns. Members of the educated classes, and railwaymen are hanged there side by side. The school children of Upper Silesia were herded there to watch the cruel spectacle.

"New concentration camps have been set up to which peasants are sent for refusal to supply occupying authorities with their quotas of agricultural produce. The German authorities in deadly fear of a Polish uprising, sent 1,200 reserve officers to concentration camps in April of this year. Several scores of Polish prisoners of war were placed on trial and, as a rule, sentenced to death or to life-long imprisonment. In February special lecturers arrived in Poland from Germany and at confidential German meetings reviewed the general war situation and explained the necessity for a policy of increased terrorism in the following words:

"The war is nearing its end and a final decision will soon be reached. Germans who came to the occupied countries must defend themselves on the spot, must actively co-operate with the occupying armies as the menace of the enemy is everywhere present. These Germans must rely on their own strength in first resort; they must be the guardians of the German armies rear. They must keep constant watch on their own houses and those of their neighbours. The front turns its eyes to them and requires sacrifices of them. The year 1918 cannot be repeated and they are to see to this. The present war is not a war for territories or frontiers but a struggle for the very existence of Germany."

"In accordance with this viewpoint, which betrays so significantly the German state of mind,

military organizations have been formed to which all civilian Germans must belong. They were given arms, they obtained right to have their own courts of law, and were promised complete immunity for any acts of brute force they might commit against the defenceless population. Once more Germany is seizing hostages 'en masse' from amongst well known social and political workers, and from every class of the nation. A month ago in Warsaw one hundred of them were shot as a reprisal for the shooting of one German, and in the Lublin district 400 were executed for killing one German henchman.

"The Jewish population of Poland is doomed to die out in accordance with the slogan, 'All Jews should have their throats cut, no matter what the outcome of the war may be.' Real massacres of tens of thousands of Jews in Lublin, Wilno, Lwow, Stanislawow, Rzeszow and Mieczow have been carried out this year. These people are being starved to death in the Ghettos. Mass executions have been held and even those suffering from typhus have been shot.

"Finally, the German Reich, threatened by the most serious shortage of manpower, has committed the greatest possible outrage. In western Poland, illegally "incorporated" with the Reich, against all international law, the German authorities are forcibly enrolling Poles in their army. The number of Poles thus enrolled already amounts to 70,000 men in Pomerania, 100,000 in Silesia. In the Government-General Poles are forced to serve in the auxiliary formations of the German army. Both measures are not only clear violations of the IVth Hague Convention of 1907, and contrary to the most elementary International usage, but are simply criminal. Citizens of an occupied country are being compelled by brute force to shed blood in the cause of the hated invader, are being forced to fight against their brothers. Determined resistance to and mass desertions from this press-gang conscription, inconceivable in the 20th century, have already led to numerous death sentences in Poland.

"The Polish Government is bringing all these facts to the cognizance of the Allied Governments and of public opinion throughout the world. German terror is also raging in other countries in Europe to-day. The perpetrators of these crimes must be brought to account, this principle ought to become the guiding policy of the Allies. Only by the announcement of retribution and the application of reprisals wherever possible can a stop be put to the rising tide of madness of these German assassins, and can we save hundreds of thousands of innocent victims from certain death.

"In paying my deepest homage to the memory of the murdered and tortured victims, I wish to assure my country on behalf of the Polish Government that the latter is fully aware of all these crimes and will not omit any one of them from the final reckoning. Be certain of victory, endure, do not allow yourselves to be depressed by outbursts of despair, do not let yourselves be influenced by false suggestions, maintain your discipline and determination as heretofore, qualities which have evoked admiration and respect for the Polish nation throughout the world.

"Germany always worshipped brute force and stained her path with rivers of blood. Germany

will certainly not overturn the Nazi regime of its own free will, as this regime is ideally suited to their national character and gives full play to their innate characteristics. Therefore 1918 will not be repeated after this war. But Germany, which, as Goering said, has been raised high by the genius of the Fuehrer, will fall into the bottomless abyss when the power of the German army and of the Nazi party has been broken. Germany cannot escape defeat. This is clearly shown by events on all war fronts, by the gigantic raids of the Allied Air Force, which bring the German nation only a foretaste of the just and well-merited retribution she will undergo."

NEWS FROM AND ABOUT POLAND

NEW POLISH MINISTER OF WAR AFFAIRS

It is officially announced that General Sikorski, the Polish Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Polish forces, has decided, owing to pressure of work, to relinquish the post of Minister of War Affairs, which he combined hitherto with his other duties.

A separate Minister of War Affairs has been appointed. He is Lieutenant-General Dr. Marjan Kukiel, G.O.C. of the Polish Army Corps in Scotland. Dr. Marjan Kukiel is one of the most distinguished Polish historians. He commanded a division in the Polish Army before 1925, when he became head of the Polish Historical Military Research Bureau. From 1927 until the outbreak of the war he was Professor of Modern History at Cracow University. He is a great expert on the Napoleonic Wars and wrote a standard book in 1928.

INTREPID EXPLOITS OF THE POLISH SUBMARINE "SOKOL"

After having reached an Italian port a Polish submarine "Sokol" was caught in an anti-submarine net, but despite the aerial attacks on her and depth charges she luckily escaped destruction. Italians thought that the boat was destroyed, while well submerged she was awaiting an enemy convoy outside the port.

"And then," as the Captain said, "we dealt a deadly blow. One of our torpedoes sank an Italian destroyer, and the two other torpedoes hit supply ships which overturned and sank. When approaching the British shores after a year's absence we were greeted by a Polish bomber squadron and we immediately felt at home." Asked whether they had any encounter with Germans, the Captain said they had not had that chance as yet, but he is hopeful that some day they

will meet with better luck; he said there are not many German merchantmen about nowadays.—When the crew of the "Sokol" arrived in the British port the Captain was awarded the D.S.O. and the crew-two D. S.C. and six D.S.M.

Besides the above mentioned successes the following are recorded by the "Sokol": One armed merchantman of 5000 tons torpedoed while it was escorting an enemy convoy; one enemy supply-ship sunk by gunfire; a large enemy destroyer almost certainly sunk; two escorted supply ships torpedoed.

COLOGNE AND ESSEN RAIDS

The Polish Air Force participated in full strength in the two great attacks on Cologne and Essen. Polish bomber squadrons, that had already distinguished themselves in raids on Berlin and had recently taken part in the blasting of Lubeck and Rostock, were out in full force. Many Polish fighter squadrons escorted the big planes and prevented interception by German forces over Northern France and the Low Countries.

There is intense enthusiasm among the Polish airmen and their land crews, as they are now able to pay back the Germans in full for the bombing of Warsaw and many other defenceless Polish cities, and their elation is shared by the Royal Air Force now strong enough to avenge the killing and wounding of more than 100,000 British civilians by German bombing.

Everyone of the Polish bombers engaged in the Cologne raid returned safely to its English base.

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Rostock and Lubeck, in the recent bombing of which Poland's avenging eagles took so glorious a part, were settled by Poles 2,000 years ago before Prussians were invented, as shown by their old names, Rostoka and Lubeka.

PROTECTING POLISH HARVEST

DRASTIC NEW DECREE

A drastic new decree to protect the harvest in Poland has been issued by the German Governor-General, Frank. The decree lays down the *death sentence* for all who dare to destroy or damage harvests, do not supply the required quota of grain, hide large supplies of agricultural produce, and all who instigate such crimes. All motor vehicles suitable for harvest work have been requisitioned in Poland.

IMPROVING THE "NORDIC" RACE IN QUALITY AND QUANTITY

The facts related below may seem incredible, for they violate all standards accepted by the civilized world. We have, however, no grounds for doubt. This report has been printed in one of the Polish Underground papers late in January, 1942. Published "somewhere in Poland" this paper is one of the best sources of information on Poland under the Nazi rule.

A CAMP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE NORDIC RACE

Upon the proposal of the "scientists' group" of the Nazi Party of the Lodz district, an experimental camp for the "improvement of the Nordic race" has been set up in Helenow, near Lodz, in the summer of 1941. It is the first camp of its kind in the "recovered eastern areas," as the Polish lands are called by the Germans. Similar camps have existed in the German Reich proper for the past several years. In the Reich they operate upon somewhat different organizational principles and under a different name, but they have the strong support of the Nazi medical and educational authorities. Before the war, the Polish press carried much information about these camps. There were approximately ten such camps in Germany in May, 1939; to-day their number has probably increased.

THE FIRST BEGINNINGS

The Helenow camp sets itself the goal of raising the standards of the Nordic racial type to the ideal conceived by the Nazi "race scientists." When the camp was first opened, several score of young German boys and as many German girls between the ages of 15 and 18 were brought there. Preliminary activities were begun: playgrounds and classrooms, a swimming pool and a hall were built. Many small cabins were erected, each to accommodate two persons. By the fall of 1941 the preparations were completed. About the same time many Polish families in the districts of Lodz and Poznan were distressed by the sudden disappear-

ance of their young sons and daughters, all of them of excellent physical constitution, blue eyes, and other "Nordic" characteristics. Some of them returned after several weeks; others were not heard from. Only much later news came of them from Helenow through illegal channels.

PRELIMINARIES

The boys and girls, captured in the streets or the trains, are taken to Lodz, where they undergo a thorough medical examination. Those in whom the slightest physical defect is discovered are sent back home. The others are given a series of inoculations, after which they are once more examined by doctors. They are then taken to Helenow and separated according to age and sex groups. Once these preliminaries are over, the young people are started on their incredible and tragic ordeal.

A DAY IN THE CAMP

By September, 1941, a young couple was settled in every cabin in the camp: German boys with Polish girls, and Polish boys with German girls.

The regular program for the day was as follows: reveille at 6 a.m., putting the rooms in order, callisthenics, washing, etc. At 7 p.m.—common breakfast in the open air, or in the hall when the weather was bad. After breakfast—two hours of classes (German, physics, mathematics, etc.). The hours between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. were devoted to exercise and sports: playing, swimming, athletics, etc. Lunch was eaten at 1-30, and two hours rest was allowed after lunch. From 3 to 5 p.m.—classes or sports, alternating every day. At 5 p.m.—afternoon tea, then short hikes or military exercises (for the boys only). Dinner at 8 p.m. was followed by some propaganda around fires in the open, or in the hall. Curfew at 10 p.m. After that everyone must be back in his cabin.

The food situation in the camps is excellent, absolutely unlike that in the rest of occupied Poland. There is meat every day, milk, fresh fruit, much white bread and vegetables.

"RAISING THE STANDARDS OF THE RACE"

Despite the long camp curriculum life there would seem relatively free and pleasant: the Germans and the Poles are given equal treatment. The only duty which is absolutely enforced is the regular performance of sexual intercourse with the partner assigned. The compliance with this duty is under the constant control of the camp physicians, and any failure in this respect is severely punished. There were several attempts at suicide among the Polish girls forced to sexual intercourse with German boys. To prevent the recurrence of such

cases, the camp authorities arranged a special series of propaganda lectures to stress the need for sexual intercourse between Poles and Germans and to point out the importance of racial purity in the life of the German and the Polish nations.

The Helenow camp has recently been expanded: to-day it holds 500 inmates, most of them Poles. There is a constant turnover in the camp. Mothers-to-be are evacuated into Germany. What the future holds for these girls is not difficult to guess. They may be employed as farmhands or as workers in armament factories, but it is more likely that they will be made into "army women." The boys will probably be allowed to return to their homes after the ordeal is over, but the psychological effects of life in the "camp for the improvement of the 'Nordic' race" will not be easily eradicated.

PRETTY POLISH GIRLS—"NORDIC TYPES"

The Nazis also employ a variety of other methods to "improve the Nordic race." Many of the Polish girls employed in public institutions and offices in Lodz have recently been given thorough medical examinations. The prettiest and the healthiest ones were classified as "Nordics" and ordered to depart immediately to the Reich, where they were promised jobs and "German" rationing cards (entitling them to larger rations than Poles usually receive). They are even allowed to bring their immediate families. The only condition imposed upon them is that they marry a German within a short time.

POLISH CHILDREN BROUGHT UP BY THE NAZI GOVERNMENT

The German authorities of occupation in Western Poland have recently issued an order raising the minimum age at which young Poles are permitted to marry. In order to prevent Polish couples from evading this order by marrying in religious ceremony and postponing the civil ceremony until they attain the age prescribed by the Germans, the Nazis have issued another decree, stating that children born from marriages considered illegal by the German authorities will be taken from their parents and given a "National upbringing" by the German State. In addition, mothers of such children will be severely punished by compulsory labor. Polish children given a "national upbringing" will be considered Germans and educated in the Nazi spirit.

THE NAZI CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE "SURPLUS" OF INTELLECTUALS IN POLAND

The Nazi press in Poland wages a continuous campaign against the Polish intelligentsia. The Nazis use every means at their disposal to discredit

this group in the eyes of the Polish working people. One of the Nazi papers editorially states:

"The intellectuals in Poland were people who belonged to a privileged group and assumed the moral right to be idle. There was a surplus of intellectuals in Poland, intellectuals of the worst kind."

Simultaneously with such attacks, the Nazi occupation authorities carry out a systematic and ruthless policy of physical extermination. The Polish people, however, well understand the meaning of this attempt to destroy the intellectuals, who, in the face of the most brutal terror, refuse to submit to the conqueror and actively participate in the underground struggle to free their country.

"WE SHALL SERVE"

Under the title, "We Shall Serve," one of the Polish illegal papers published an article which explains the Nazi policy as follows:

"The Germans attempt to destroy the Polish intelligentsia because they feel that it is the source and centre of Polish national and social consciousness. They consider it the only group in Poland capable of creating art, science, and philosophy.... The German invaders wish to transform the Poles into a tribe of peons working for their German masters. They think the Polish people can be forced to fit into that scheme. They think the Polish peasants and workers, deprived of intellectual leadership, will easily abandon all that they stood for, will forget the language of their forefathers and give up their historic ambitions."

The Polish intellectuals are proud to be singled out as the special object of Nazi attack, "proud to be considered the invader's most dangerous enemy." The Polish intelligentsia will gladly serve. But it "will serve the nation's independence and the world's liberty."

THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

The Nazis constantly try to divide the Polish intelligentsia and the Polish people. The underground press strongly resents this effort to break up the unity of the nation: "The assumption that the Poles will become reconciled to serfdom and consent to be the slaves of the Germans is in itself an insult.... In their fight for independence, the Polish people have shown their striving towards a fuller and better life... To-day they are fighting not only to restore national independence, but also to establish, in liberated Poland, a social order that will give everyone the widest opportunities and make possible the full development of the creative forces inherent in the working masses.

The development of a new intelligentsia from the ranks of the working masses will be one of the primary features of this new order. . ."

A COMMON LANGUAGE

Polish workers and peasants have shown their political maturity by consistently opposing the Nazis' vicious baiting of the intelligentsia. The underground press thus describes the new solidarity of the working masses and the intelligentsia:

"The proverbial ivory tower separating the select intellectuals from the workers no longer exists. All traces of it have disappeared forever... The most subtle intellectual, who was formerly interested only in abstract ideas, to-day communicates with the simplest labourer by a look, a gesture, a word."

This newly found common language, shared by the Polish worker, peasant, and intellectual working together in the underground movement, is the language of the common struggle for a New Poland.

CONCENTRATION CAMPS

DACHAU

The following report has recently reached us from Poland on conditions of life in the camp at Dachau :

"... there are large numbers of Poles in the camp, most of them are old people. All authority in the camp is in the hands of German criminals, who, it may be stated in all truth, are pathological subjects. The prisoners have to observe very strict rules : in the summer they get up at 3 a.m. and in the winter at 4 a.m. They are then required to answer a long and exhausting roll call, which often lasts as long as two hours and is more often than not taken out of doors. The roll call is followed by drill, which is quite beyond the physical powers of most of the prisoners. During the day they have to work under exceedingly bad conditions—in an ammunition factory, in a pottery works or in one of the prison workshops, in the camp bakery, laundry, kitchen, etc., or sometimes in the kitchen gardens. In the camp there is a severe shortage of food. Breakfast consists of black and rather bitter coffee and about 5 ozs. of bread. For dinner there is watery soup, and supper exists more in theory than in practice. When the day's work is over at 9 o'clock, the prisoners go to their cold cells for the night, where they have to sleep as best they can with only a thin blanket to cover them. The chances of escape from the camp are practically non-existent. The camp is surrounded by a trench 6 ft. wide, a high wire fence charged with electric current, a wall in which it is impossible to get a foothold and numbers of German guards armed with machine guns.

NEW PRISONERS IN ORANIENBURG.

Those Poles of German origin, who had failed to declare themselves *Volksdeutsche*, when the time limit fixed for such a declaration had expired, were sent to the concentration camp at Oranienburg.

Polish officers with German names, who were prisoners of war in Germany, have also met with the same fate.

The Germans describe this class of prisoner as "*Schutzhaeflinge*."

POLITICAL PRISONERS TORTURED

Lately here has been a tremendous increase in the number of cases where the Gestapo have employed bestial methods of torture in the interrogation of political prisoners. During cross examination people are beaten and tortured in an indescribably cruel way by gangs of warders, especially chosen for their degeneracy. More often than not these men are drunk when torturing their victims, and the latter usually come from their cross examination with serious injuries to both external and internal organs.

IN OCCUPIED WARSAW

In November, 1941, the Berlin correspondent of the Swedish newspaper, "Aftonbladet," made a tour of occupied Poland. Although this journalist by no means sympathizes with Poland, his reports frequently present true pictures of present-day Polish life. We are, therefore, reprinting below some excerpts from his account of life in occupied Warsaw.

"The clerk of 'Europe,' one of the largest hotels in Warsaw, seemed astonished at my request for cigarettes.

"'We have not had any tobacco or cigarettes for a long time,' he answered, 'no restaurants or tobacco stores carry them to-day. But you don't have to go without cigarettes—if you have enough money. Step out into the street and you can buy as many as you wish. The price will be high, though.'

"A few steps from the hotel I met a boy of ten with a wooden box full of cigarettes, suspended from his shoulders by a leather strap. For twenty Polish cigarettes I paid him \$2.00. After I bought them the boy offered me a pint of French cognac—for \$30.00. I bought that, too, and he then offered me a pair of silk stockings for \$12.00. The boy, who was evidently a good salesman, explained in broken German that prices on the Warsaw black market were rising from week to week, and goods were becoming more and more scarce.

"The police drive the street peddlers off the main streets, but the side streets teem with them. The black market is regularly supplied with foodstuffs. The reason for this is simple, however tragic. Food, of course, is rationed, and the Poles receive less than the Germans. Yet many Poles are forced to sell even those small rations in order to have money for the purchase of non-rationed potatoes which, in bulk at least, provide more food than the totally inadequate rations. These rations, sold on the black market, constitute the bulk of the supply.

"The general atmosphere of the city is heavy and tragic. The people speak with hatred of the Germans, but refer no less bitterly to the men who ruled Poland since Pilsudski's death.

"The great battles between the Germans and the Russians have strongly impressed the Poles, who dislike the Germans and feel that the struggle between Germany and Russia holds out a hope for their own country.

"The Poles long for liberation. For over two years—since the collapse of Poland—the Gestapo has done its utmost to crush the intelligentsia which they well knew, would play a leading role in any movement of resistance. In spite of that, anti-German leaflets are continually being published, and the small underground papers are regularly circulated among the Polish population."

HOW GERMANS BURY JEWS IN MASS GRAVE

German papers published descriptions of the mass grave in the Warsaw Ghetto. The *Hamburger Fremdenblatt* says: "The mass grave is a trench thirty meters long and twenty wide, filled with naked corpses of men, women and children. The Jewish grave-diggers are continually working at great speed as the death rate in the Ghetto, with 600,000 inhabitants, is enormous.

"The corpses are buried by covering them with only a few shovels, full of earth, consequently sometimes heads, feet or hands are seen protruding above the earth. This cemetery is intended for Jews whose families cannot provide for their funeral."

The German paper states that very often corpses are found in the streets of the Ghetto where they have been laid, and in the morning the police take them to the mass grave.

* * *

Germany is deliberately trying to exterminate the Polish people by starving them to death. The official monthly rations issued in the Government General to Poles, from October 1941 to March 1942, were as follows:

Rye Bread	8 lbs. 14 ozs.	Marmalade	5 ozs.
Oatmeal	5 ozs.	Eggs	One
Sugar	4 ozs.	Candies	2½ ozs.
Meat	12 ozs.	Ersatz "Coffee"	3 ozs.
Potatoes	2 lbs. 4 ozs.		

That is all!

Millions of people are thus doomed to gradual extinction.

In view of the prevailing and steadily increasing epidemics of typhoid, typhus, diphtheria and scarlet fever, such a whittling away of the human body is slow murder.

That is just what the Germans intend: the extermination by starvation of the Polish people.

Theoretically, one may buy foodstuffs on the black market, but the prices there are inaccessible to more than 90% of the people. Black market prices are now 3,000% higher than before the war and wages are 50% lower.

UNDER NAZI RULE

At the beginning of the war, Hitler fixed a period of ten years to Germanize Poland. Now he must accelerate this. The Danzig Gauleiter, Forster, has announced that so long as there was one man, woman, or child speaking Polish, it could not be said that the country had returned to Germany. The Polish language must be absolutely excluded from the Province. The majority of the population does not understand German, but Forster thinks that two, or two and a half years, are needed to master the German language, or at least to understand it. The Roman Catholic clergy must also be prevented from spreading anti-German propaganda. Everything must be done so that within ten years, the Province is a German country, with a purely German population. The Poles must be deprived of their culture and their language and treated as slaves.

RESTRICTION OF THE PEASANTS' FREEDOM OF TRADE

The German authorities are constantly suppressing the right of the peasants to trade freely. All farmers must join co-operative societies which levy "contributions" in proportion to the area of the farm. Farmers, "invited" to become members of these co-operatives are usually given ten days to decide and to comply with the required procedures of joining the organization. Those who delay are put on a special "blacklist," which is then transmitted to the authorities for proper punitive measures. There is, of course, no need to point out the very specious character of such "co-operatives."

UNDERGROUND

"COLD—THE BEST REMEDY FOR VERMIN"

Such is the title of a Polish leaflet—one of many which are being distributed continuously throughout Poland. This one clearly shows again that the people of Poland possess first-hand information about the political events all over the world, and particularly about the activities of the Poles abroad. Thus the first part of the leaflet contains exact information about the Polish Armed Forces in Great Britain, Russia, and the Middle East, as well as the various secret organizations in Poland. The second part gives a vivid account of the underground warfare going on against the German invaders in Poland. The third part gives us a good idea of how the average Polish citizen understands his duty towards his native country; we shall, therefore, quote it in detail.

"In the underground warfare being now waged against the invaders, every Pole, man or woman, must obey the following orders :

1. Work slowly in all the factories and enterprises which support the German army. The more often you make "mistakes," "forget," or "misunderstand"—the better it will be for our cause. Be cautious—but also courageous.

2. Passive resistance to all German decrees and regulations. Don't care in the least for any registrations, prohibitions, orders to hand over your skis, or whatever the Germans may invent! On the other hand, do not apply passive resistance if, by doing so, you might harm the people of Poland.

3. Do not have any intercourse whatsoever with Germans, except where it is absolutely necessary—at the office, for instance. Do not show them any kindness, do not smile in their presence, etc. Every German in Poland must realize that he is in a hostile country, that he is surrounded by a sea of hatred created by the inhuman atrocities he has committed and still commits in Poland.

4. Boycott the cinemas—the most important source of profits for the German propaganda. Boycott all the German controlled newspapers and periodicals. Boycott the German firms in Poland, and all the shops confiscated by them. Hit the Germans financially whenever you can.

5. Lend your help and assistance to every Pole who is in distress. Even a poor man can help a still poorer one. And if you happen to earn good wages, help not only individuals, but also support Polish organizations. Remember that enjoying oneself in these times is utterly shameful. Remember that hundreds of eyes watch you closely and if you are not with the Polish people in these days of misery and defeat, you will be held res-

pensible for your behaviour afterwards. In one word : be an active patriot ! It is not enough to sigh for the past, and meanwhile sit back waiting; by your deeds you must prove every day that you really are a Pole !

Don't be afraid ! Don't throw out, or burn, this leaflet. Don't fear the enemy—the enemy is beginning to fear us more and more, and so he fears you too ! Lift up your head !

Read this leaflet once more, and remember what you have just read. Tell others about it. Then give the leaflet to somebody else."

EIGHT LETTERS

We translate verbatim 8 letters of the First Lieutenant von Toll from Warsaw, addressed to his cousin Hellmuth Toll in Chemnitz, Germany.

1ST LETTER.

I think that your convalescence will last weeks perhaps 4 to 5 months *i.e.*, to the first days of 1941. Then the war will be over and we shall have at our feet defeated England.

It is a pity that you were not here when we came here. Helmuth, you cannot imagine how we have finished off this town of dogs, slaves and Slavs. The Poles held out, but we have driven them away.

Pardon me this paradox but one must be human in one's inhumanity. It is easy for the English hypocrites to pretend that it is cruel to wage war against the civil population. In reality it is only humane to destroy the civilians because in such a way the morale of the enemy will be broken and our own soldiers will be saved. We have tried this method in Poland. Helmuth ! Here we have not spared anybody or anything!

Where we have seen a Polish head, irrespective of whether it was black or grey, whether it was a male or female head we have struck. . . From the air with machine-guns when they tried to save themselves in shelters. . . Every Pole on our way, man or woman—a corpse. Thus we entered Warsaw, as an Army of Conquerors. The view of Warsaw to me was imposing. I have never seen such ruins. . .

I have got lodgings in Marszalkowska street. The owner of the house is an old woman, she lost her arm during one of our air-raids. Therefore. . . she is very polite. . . We have arranged a hunt for political criminals. It is very simple. We must catch everything that is in opposition and afterwards liquidate everything. So those who remain alive learn to be obedient. I shall write you again. . .

2ND LETTER

... Unquestionably we shall manage... I had a busy day. We caught 300 persons from Warsaw and we shot them. During about 7 or 8 weeks we have exterminated the whole opposition, liberals, nationalists, etc. Every one of them will be shot. The rest, *i.e.*, the stupefied mass will be obedient because it will be afraid. Is it not simple? Well, it is as simple as that! The chief characteristic of Hitler's plans is their simplicity and for that reason they are infallible...

3RD LETTER.

... I am in a hurry... I hope you are better. I have worked very hard. The Polish revolutionary elements annoy us... To-day one of our mayors was killed. We have arrested all the Poles who are living in their neighbourhood—13 men and 2 women have been shot.

My house-keeper's name is Madame Apolonia. Now that her arm is better, she is a good cook. I hope that we shall not be troubled by the Polish fanatics. I hope to be home in a few months...

4TH LETTER.

... Next time I shall send you ivory chessmen. I am working day and night. There is really an epidemic of attempts and outrages, but we shall manage...

5TH LETTER

I tried to send you white and red ivory chessmen but instead of that I am sending you a watch. It was as follows: Madam Apolonia had the chessmen. I told her that I would like to have them. Next day when I asked her to give me the chessmen... they had disappeared. Apolonia explained that probably thieves had stolen the chessmen. You may be sure that I have thoroughly searched the whole house, but I could not find the chessmen. However, I have found in a box this gold watch and a man's ring with a ruby. You would laugh heartily if you could see this old Polish woman on her knees supplicating me not to take away this watch and ring because they had belonged to some son or to somebody killed. At last, I assure you, she dug out 150 American dollars, and gave me this money for the watch and the ring. I took away the dollars and the watch. Well, but it is late. I must go to bed! I hope that you will recover soon...

6TH LETTER

It becomes hotter and hotter here. To-day somebody shot at me. I have made a report and you may be sure that punishment will be imposed...

7TH LETTER.

Being in bed I am writing to you. I have been wounded. It was in Marszalkowska street. It must be admitted that we were warned not to go out in the evening because many of our officers and soldiers were killed. I was in a coffee-house but I went out a little bit earlier... A gentleman asked... me: are you Lt. Toll? I answered—yes. Then he shot... The author ran away... Inquest was held on my house-keeper and her family. They denied that they had anything to do with that affair but they were shot. I am not well...

8TH LETTER.

... For the assault on my person ten hostages were shot. I think that you will be pleased to hear it. I hope that I shall see you again soon...

* * *

On the 8th October, 1940, the following official report was issued:

"To-day the death occurred of Lieutenant Toll as a result of wounds inflicted on the 17th September at Marszalkowska Street by an unknown assailant.

POLISH—CZECHOSLOVAK COLLABORATION

JOINT POLISH-CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIQUE

The following is the text of a communique issued by the Polish and Czechoslovak Governments-in-Exile in London, on June 12, 1942:

While attaching greatest importance to the general international organization of all democratic and peace-loving nations from the point of view of both the security and prosperity of Europe, the Governments of Poland and Czechoslovakia consider, however, the confederation of Poland and Czechoslovakia to be a primary and fundamental aim of their foreign policy during and after the war. This, in the opinion of the two Governments, should serve as a basis for regional organization of that part of Europe with which the vital interests of their countries are bound. The two Governments, abiding by their common decisions of November 11, 1940, and January 19, 1942, and being desirous of speeding up preparatory work in this respect, have instructed the Polish-Czechoslovak Co-ordination Committee to convocate four mixed commissions: economic, military, social, and cultural. It will be the duty of these commissions to study the principles and methods of economic, military, cultural and social organization of confederation.